

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

— OF THE —

Sixtieth Annual Session

— OF THE —

Salem Baptist Association,

—HELD WITH THE—

Church at Spring Hill, Milo, Pike County, Alabama,

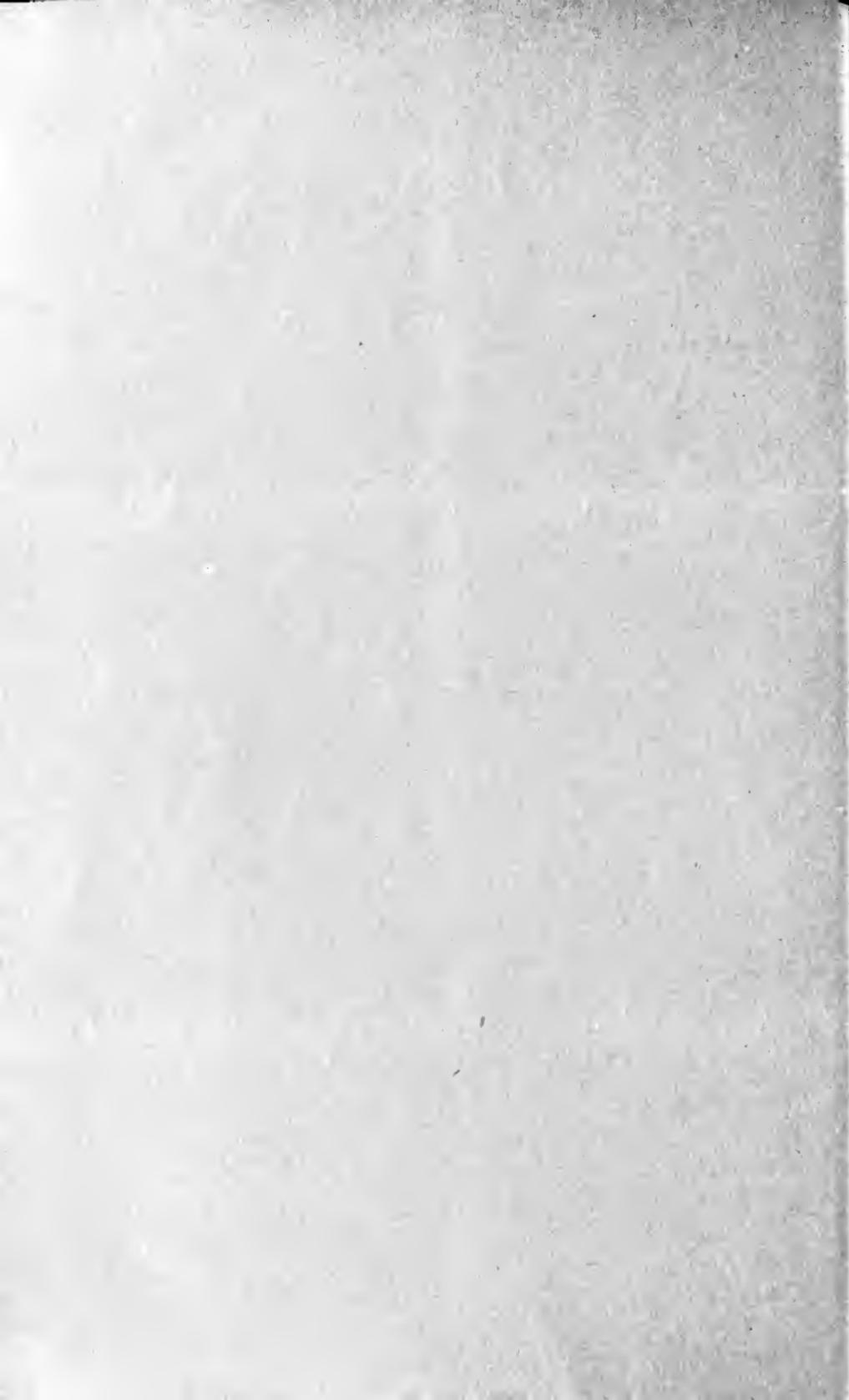
Commencing on Thursday, September 29th, 1898.

OFFICERS:

D. C. ALLEN,
W. B. DARBY,

Moderator.
Clerk.

Sept 28. 1898. Edward W. Allen



MINUTES.

The Salem Baptist Association assembled in its Sixtieth Session with the church at Spring Hill, Milo, Pike county, Ala., on Thursday, the 29th day of September, 1898.

Eld. J. M. Loflin preached the Introductory Sermon at 11 a. m. from the text recorded in John 3:8. After which the congregation was dismissed for dinner.

At 1:30 p. m. the Association proper, convened in the church house, and was called to order by Eld. D. C. Allen, Eld. J. J. Nelson leading in the devotional exercises.

Letters from the churches were handed in, and read by Eld. J. M. Loflin and Bro. Jno. E. Moore, of the Troy Association, and the messengers enrolled as follows:

From Ebenezer—W. W. Smith.
From Enon—G. W. Hardin.
From Zebulon—B. F. Hickman.
From Providence—Eld. D. B. Mills and B. F. Rodgers.
From Bethel—M. L. Wadkins and T. J. McDowell.
From Antioch—E. W. Smith, W. J. Wilson.
From Pea River—L. R. Tew, Eld. J. Black.
From Shady Grove—Eld. D. C. Allen.
From St. John's—M. C. Crenshaw, C. M. Stinson, U. S. Fuller, J. N. Holmes.
From Good Hope—C. C. King, J. D. Rushing.
From Spring Hill—A. E. Chancey, T. R. Searcy, H. Nelson, W. H. Manning, C. J. Gillis.
From White Rock—W. F. Newsome, E. M. Simmons.
From Henderson—W. C. Sanders, W. B. Darby, C. M. Logan, J. T. Sanders, Eld. J. M. Nofflin.
From Mt. Moriah—Eld. J. H. Stephens.
From Harmony—Eld. J. J. Nelson, B. P. Floyd.
From Lebanon—M. J. Youngblood, G. F. Youngblood.
From Starkeville—John Spivey.
Chapel Hill—J. R. G. Mills.

Permanent organization was accomplished by the re-election of Eld. D. C. Allen, Moderator, and W. B. Darby, Clerk-Treasurer.

The Moderator addressed the Association briefly, and announced the following committees:

On Divine Service—Bro. U. S. Fuller, with messengers of Spring Hill church.

On Finance—A. E. Chancey, J. R. Mills and T. J. McDowell.

On motion, the time for meeting and adjourning was fixed so as to meet at 8:30 a. m., adjourn at 11 a. m. for preaching, re-convene at 1:30 p. m., and adjourn at will.

The following named correspondents responded to the call:

From Pea River Association—Eld. I. J. Johnson, Bro. John Weed.

From Troy Association—Eld. J. L. Youngblood, Bro. J. E. Moore.

From Newton Association—Bro. T. B. Senn.

Elders D. C. Allen and D. B. Mills, for the Alabama Baptist, were the only agents.

The Moderator appointed Bro. T. R. Searcy to fill the vacancy in the Committee on Education, caused by the death of Bro. J. D. McLendon, Sr.

Committees for the session announced as follows:

On Documents—D. B. Mills, B. F. Hickman, John Spivey.

On Nominations—M. L. Wadkins, E. W. Smith, E. M. Simmons.

On Colportage—G. F. Youngblood, C. M. Logan, W. J. Wilson.

On Periodicals—J. J. Nelson, G. W. Hardin, L. R. Tew.

On Deceased Ministers, Etc.—B. P. Floyd, U. S. Fuller, C. M. Stinson.

The work for the day being finished, on motion, the Association adjourned until 8:30 to-morrow morning.

SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

At the appointed hour, the session was called to order by the Moderator.

Eld. I. J. Johnson led in devotional exercise.

The minute of yesterday was read and approved, also the roll was called and revised.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

ON SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

It is with much pleasure, to your committee at least, that it is able to report the Sunday-school interest in our Association, progressing. Last year only twelve of our nineteen churches mentioned and reported their Sunday-schools to the Association, and this year every church, except *three*, are engaged in this glorious work. The manifest indifference among our church membership to this line of church work is a calamitous trouble, beyond

the ability of your committee to correct or even understand. But let us thank God for the few noble brothers and sisters at the different churches who are so devoutly striving in obedience to the Divine command, to "*teach them unto our children.*" From the Baptist Year-Book, for last year, we learn that there are 1,739 Baptist churches in Alabama, with a membership of 124,751; Baptist Sunday-schools, 744; number of pupils, 39,831. We see from these figures that only about 43 per cent. of our churches have Sunday-schools, and only about sixteen in every hundred members attend them. Upon a comparison of statistics, your committee is delighted to be able to report that of the thirty-one Baptist churches in Pike county nearly every one has some sort of a Sunday-school, but the attendance of our 2,672 members swings us back to sixteen out of every hundred, or about 428 Pike county Baptists in Sunday-school work. Brethren, for the Lord's sake, let's do better, and strive to adorn our professions in Christ by faithful efforts to do His will.

Respectfully submitted,

J. J. NELSON,
W. B. DARBY,
C. D. HARDIN, } Committee.

The report was discussed at great length by Bros. W. B. Darby, I. J. Johnson, J. J. Nelson, J. H. Stephens, D. C. Allen, B. P. Floyd, and adopted.

The report on Education was read by Bro. T. R. Searcy, as follows:

So much having been said of the subject of education, and with little apparent effect, that, was it not for its momentous importance, your committee would say little more than direct attention to our denominational schools. But the field for thought and discussion is so extensive, and is so vital to our prosperity, and seeing the indifference of our people to their own advancement, intellectually, we venture a few thoughts thereon. Education does not necessarily mean, learnt in book-lore, but one must be taught to apply what he has learned; his moral nature must be trained, his brain must be taught to think, his heart to feel and his hand to perform. Solomon said, "Train up a child in the way it should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it," and the reason for improper use of knowledge is the lack of moral culture and refinement. An immoral, educated scamp is extremely dangerous to society. Then how very careful we should be to have the moral nature of our children properly trained and developed while acquiring learning. We should begin to educate aright in the very dawn of in-

fantile intelligence, remembering that the early impressions are the most lasting, and "as the twig is bent, so will the tree grow." Brethren, let us wake up to a sense of duty, and then dare to do it. Your committee would direct attention, specially, to our splendid institutions, the Howard College, for boys, and the Judson, for girls, and our Collegiate Institute at Newton, Ala. All of these are eminently worthy of your patronage and encouragement. Respectfully submitted,

T. R. SEARCY, Chairman.

On motion, further consideration was postponed until 1:30 p. m. Adjourned for preaching.

EVENING SESSION.

Promptly at 1:30 p. m. the meeting was called to order by the Moderator, and consideration of the report on Education resumed. It was discussed by Bros. J. M. Loflin, B. P. Floyd, J. H. Stephens, and adopted.

Bro. John A. Jones read the report on Temperance as follows:

It seems to your committee, that after so much has been said about drinking intoxicants as a beverage, there would be none drank by civilized people, much less professed Christians. Bar-rooms exist to-day only by the patronage of our people. Liquor drinking is sapping every enterprise, still its advocates use every plea to justify its sale. They claim that without its sale and the license money, towns would die, schools stop, electric lights go out, and water manes and plugs would dry out forever. If all that is true, let them go out. It is a great surprise to your committee that some Baptists will cry because their boys drink, and then save and haul their cane skimmings to foster that which makes them cry.

Amended so as to read, That from this day the Salem Association will not fellowship any church that retains a member who signs a whisky petition.

Discussed by Bros. J. J. Nelson, B. P. Floyd, D. B. Mills, and adopted.

The Treasurer's report was read, and properly referred.

The report on Missions was read by Eld. J. M. Loflin, and on motion was deferred until 9 a. m. tomorrow.

The report on Deceased Ministers was read by Bro. B. P. Floyd, and pending its adoption the Association adjourned for the day.

The Moderator gave notice that at the proper time he would take up a collection to place a suitable marble slab over the grave of Bro. E. M. Brooks, deceased.

THIRD DAY'S SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, Eld. J. J. Macon leading in prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

The report on Deceased Ministers was passed for the present.

Eld. J. M. Loffin re-read the report on Missions, as follows:

Our Mission work is, for convenience, divided into "Foreign," "Home," and "State." Each is managed by a board of directors, and has a Secretary, the only salaried officer, the members of the board serving gratis. Our Foreign Board is located at Richmond, Va., and directs the work in foreign countries; the Home Board at Atlanta, Ga., and attends to the domestic work, including that in Cuba; the State Board at Montgomery, Ala., and controls the work in our own State. At last report it had 17 men employed; No. of days' service rendered, 3,536; No. of miles traveled, 23,747; sermons preached, 1,831; No. of churches constituted, 5; No. of addresses delivered, 533; No. of persons baptized, 355; No. of Sunday-schools organized, 8; No. of prayer-meetings held, 246; No. of churches visited, 683; No. of subscribers to our papers, 322; No. of tracts distributed, 40,000; No. of Bibles given away, 150; Mission collected in this work, \$4,449.17.

The above shows the work done by our State Board last year, notwithstanding the yellow fever quarantine and the low price of cotton, the Board is something like \$6,000 in debt.

Only about 10 per cent. of our church membership contribute to the support of our Missionary work. Brethren, let us wake up and do more for Master's cause in Alabama.

The Home Board has 467 missionaries employed; No. weeks labor, 11,407; No. of churches and stations, 1,960; No. of sermons and addresses, 49,306; No. of prayer-meetings, 10,359; No. of religious visits, 59,841; No. baptized, 4,739; total additions, 9,509; churches constituted, 103; meeting houses built, 45; cost of houses, \$59,629; No. of Bibles and Testaments given away, 7,710; tracts distributed, 1,580,741.

This work was done in an area of country occupied by over 30,000,000 of souls, 12,000,000 of which are unconverted and know not the Lord in the pardon of their sins.

The Foreign Board has accomplished wonders compared with the difficulties encountered. The whole world has opened its doors to our Board, and its needs are great. Let us help it, too. Respectfully submitted.

Spoken to by Bros. J. M. Loftin, J. J. Nelson and J. H. Stephens, and adopted.

Eld. D. B. Mills read the report on Documents as follows:

Your committee finds an invitation from Enon church for the next session of this Association; also on the question of consolidation of the Troy and Salem in a new Pike county Association, ten churches are silent, six are opposed and two in favor of it. Your committee would, therefore, recommend that a committee of ten discreet brethren be appointed to meet and confer with a like committee from the Troy Association upon terms of consolidation, if such agreement should be ratified by the churches. Respectfully submitted.

Adopted.

The Moderator appointed the following brethren on said committee: Bros. T. W. Law, J. H. Stephens, C. M. Logan, J. F. Brightwell, C. T. Spradley, U. S. Fuller, D. B. Mills, G. W. Hardin, J. R. G. Mills and W. B. Darby.

Bro. G. F. Youngblood read the following report on Colportage:

Your committee knows of no destitution among our people of the Bible, but there is great destitution of Baptist literature. We recommend, therefore, that our churches look well to this matter. Respectfully submitted. Adopted.

The following report on Periodicals, by Eld. J. J. Nelson:

Your committee would recommend, First—The constant and prayerful study of the Bible. Second—To subscribe for and read our State organ, The Alabama Baptist; Third, The Baptist Standard, The Christian Index, Our Mission Journal, and all the literature of our Southern Baptist convention, or the American Publication Society. Respectfully submitted. Adopted.

The report on Nominations was read by Bro. M. L. Wadkins, as follows:

We recommend that the next session be held with Enon church, and that Eld. D. B. Mills preach the Introductory Sermon.

Delegates to State Convention—Bros. B. P. Floyd, M. J. Youngblood, R. D. Williams and J. F. Brightwell.

Delegate to Southern Baptist Convention—Eld. D. C. Allen.

Executive Committee—Bros. J. A. Jones, C. M. Logan and R. A. Lowry.

Respectfully submitted. Adopted.

The report on Deceased Ministers and Deacons was re-read by Bro. B. P. Floyd, as follows:

It is with sad hearts that we chronicle the death of our dearly beloved Father in Israel, Eld. Elijah Brooks. He had labored long and faithfully for the Master in our midst, and was a constant member of our sessions since 1847. In all his work, as a Christian and minister, he had endeared himself to us all. He was dutiful and watchful in all his trusts, and will be missed, not only in his home, but in the entire country here, in his church and Association. His holy example and fatherly advice is most keenly felt by this entire Association, and the dear old brother, like Paul of old, could truly exclaim, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

Henceforth with angels to reign,
Throughout all eternity,
Where no sickness, pain or death
Shall ever come to me.

MEMORIAL TO BRO. TOHATHAN D. M'LENDON,

Who departed this life at Henderson, on the 14th day of February, 1898. Bro. McLendon was a faithful and untiring worker in the vineyard of the Lord; active and alert in the discharge of every Christian duty. In his death the community has lost a noble patriot; his lodge, a trusted officer; his children, a devoted father; his widow a true and affectionate husband; and his church and denomination, a staunch supporter. May the peace of God, which passeth understanding, keep the hearts and minds of all sorrowing relatives and friends until the glorious appearing of the Lamb of God, when we shall all be like Him.

Respectfully submitted. Adopted.

The Moderator took up a collection of \$10.40 to be used in erecting a suitable marble slab over the grave of Eld. Elijah Brooks.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

On motion, Good Hope church was granted a letter of dismission.

The following resolution was read and adopted:

Resolved, That our thanks are heartily tendered to the brethren and friends of Spring Hill and vicinity for the generous hospitality shown us during the session.

On motion the Clerk was instructed to have the minutes printed where it could be neatly done cheapest, and then send to each church only so many as their money will pay for.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

Cash in hand for Missions.....	\$53 58
Cash in hand for Minutes.....	25 30
Orphans' Home.....	2 00

Amount reported by voucher.....	\$80 88
	4 49
Total for the year.....	\$85 37

We have carefully examined the Treasurer's report, and find it correct. E. A. CHANCEY, Chairman.

The Moderator announced the committees as follows:

On Education—J. M. Loffin, B. P. Floyd and John A. Jones.

On Temperance—D. B. Mills, M. J. Youngblood and J. W. Stewart.

On Sunday-Schools—J. J. Nelson, C. T. Spradley and C. M. Logan.

On Missions—J. H. Stephens, W. J. Reynolds and J. Black.

The business having been finished the Association adjourned to meet with Enon church, ten miles east of Banks, on Thursday before first Sunday in October, 1898.

D. C. ALLEN, Moderator.

W. B. DARBY, Clerk.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

J. J. Macon, Milo, Ala.	J. M. Loffin, Henderson, Ala.
J. H. Stephens, Curry, Ala.	B. H. Ogletree, Henderson, Ala.
D. C. Allen, Brundidge, Ala.	J. D. Allen, Frescoe, Ala.
J. Black, Brundidge, Ala.	Edie Johnson, Frescoe, Ala.
J. J. Nelson, Harmony, Ala.	W. J. Reynolds, Baltic, Ala.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF SALEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR 1898.

NAMES OF CHURCHES.	CLERKS' NAMES AND POST-OFFICES.	INCRSASE.				DECREASE.				CONTRIBUTIONS.				
		No.	Last Reported.	By Baptism.	By Letter.	Restored.	Voucher.	By Letter.	Excommunicated.	By Erasure.	By Death.	Present Membership.	For Minutis.	
Ebenezer	R. A. Morgan, Cattula	92	6	2	3	1	8	1	85	\$ 1.30	\$ 1.75	\$ 3.05		
Elton	J. T. Kentroe, Ethel	82	1	3	1	1	1	84	1.00	6.00	7.00			
Zebulon	Frank Hickman, Deleon	22	12	2	5	2	1	29	1.25	2.00	3.85			
Kitchland	S. M. Green, Brundidge	43	3	1	5	1	1	43	1.00	3.15	4.15			
Providence	B. F. Rodgers, Banks	43	2	3	1	1	1	88	2.00	2.00				
Bethel	S. J. Andress, Banks	28	5	11	7	3	2	67	1.00	1.00	4.00			
Antioch	R. F. Daves, Brundidge	57	2	2	2	2	1	59	1.00	1.00	1.00			
Pea River	W. H. Mahoney, Brundidge	39	3	1	2	1	1	42	1.50	1.50	2.60			
Shady Grove	T. B. Allen, Brundidge	31	9	2	1	1	1	37	1.00	1.00	1.00			
St. Johns	U. S. Fuller, Fresco	132	10	7	4	9	9	18	2.00	2.00	2.00			
Good Hope	R. L. Motes, Worthy	69	18	1	1	1	1	86	1.50	3.27	4.77			
Spring Hill	T. V. Law, Milo	46	3	7	1	6	1	46	1.47	1.45	1.45			
White Rock	W. J. Collins, Baltic	86	3	3	1	8	2	73	1.00	1.00	1.00			
Henderson	C. M. Logan, Henderson	97	3	2	7	9	2	73	1.80	1.60	2.60			
Mt. Moriah	C. N. Mallett, Curry	60	2	1	1	1	1	60	1.00	1.00	1.00			
Harmony	J. F. Brightwell, Harmony	47	2	2	4	1	1	54	1.75	4.00	5.75			
Lebanon	G. F. Youngblood, Youngblood	42	9	3	1	1	1	29	1.25	2.00	6.15			
Starkeville	E. H. Ham, Worthy	29	5	2	1	4	1	15	1.25	2.00	3.50			
Chapel Hill	J. R. G. Mills, Glee	57	5	2	1	1	1	61	1.50	2.00				
		Total	1237	89	68	9	1	73	26	9.206	\$ 25.30	\$ 54.921	\$ 2.00	\$ 82.22

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. The delivery of Introductory Sermon.
2. Call for and read letters from the churches.
3. Organize by election of officers.
4. Call for petitionary letters.
5. Appoint Committees on Preaching and Finance.
6. Appoint the hours for meeting and adjourning.
7. Call for Correspondents.
8. Call for agents, etc.
9. Appoint Committees on Documents, Bible Cause, Periodicals,
 Nominations and Deceased Ministers.
10. Call for report on Education and Temperance.
11. Read minutes, call and revise the roll.
12. Call for Treasurer's report.
13. Call for reports on Missions and Sunday-Schools.
14. Call for reports of Committees under 9th item.
15. Miscellaneous business.
16. Appoint Committees on Education, Temperance, Missions and
 Sunday-Schools for next session.
17. Report of Committee on Finance.
18. Fix Clerk's salary and arrange for printing minutes. Read
 and approve minutes.
19. Adjourn.

NOTE.—The above order of business was arranged at the 53d session of the Salem Association. The Clerk was instructed to have it printed on the "fly-leaf" of the minutes, with this note appended requiring all succeeding Clerks to observe this arrangement.—CLERK.

